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Letter dated 27 May 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

From 19 to 22 May 2008, the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO), encouraged and supported by Algeria, once again marshalled troops and held political demonstrations in the Tifariti zone east of the berm, in full view of members of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

Given their recurrent nature and the mendacious propaganda and belligerent language that accompany them, these actions seriously undermine the ongoing negotiations, launched by the Security Council and supported by the international community, for the achievement of a lasting political solution to the regional dispute concerning the Sahara, thanks to the impetus provided by the Moroccan autonomy initiative.

These acts defy the authority of the Council, which called upon the parties, in its resolution 1813 (2008), to create "an atmosphere propitious for dialogue ... and the success of negotiations". In addition, these acts are likely to exacerbate the many confirmed security threats besetting the Sahelo-Saharan region.

You cannot but agree that these provocative actions reflect a deliberate strategy on the part of POLISARIO and its supporters in pursuit of the specific political aim of scuttling the political process and sapping the momentum towards a peaceful settlement which the international community has worked so hard to create.

Thus, such actions amount to nothing less than a direct breach of the Council's authority and a premeditated effort to obstruct the negotiation process which it launched and strengthened through its resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007) and 1813 (2008), in support of your efforts and those of your Personal Envoy to reach a negotiated political solution.

Far from the "realism and a spirit of compromise" called for in Council resolution 1813 (2008) as a necessity for the success of the negotiations, POLISARIO and its allies confirm, through their actions, that they prefer to block progress, at the cost of the suffering and distress that continue to plague the populations of the Tindouf camps in Algerian territory.

In line with the clear and steadfast position it has always held, the Kingdom of Morocco, while reiterating its strong support for your efforts and those of your Personal Envoy to reach a negotiated political solution, reaffirms forcefully that it

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can by no means accept or tolerate any change in the status quo in this zone, which, since the proclamation of the ceasefire in September 1991, has been free from any civilian or military presence.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) El Mostafa **Sahel**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative